

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 L-03 AF-10
ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HEW-04 HUD-01 AGRE-00 COME-00 /121 W
-----240035Z 014100 /64

P R 232229Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3715
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1619

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONCLUDES
ITS SIXTH SESSION

1. SUMMARY: THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING
COMPLETED ITS SIXTH SESSION ON MAY 20 ON A RATHER SERIOUS
NOTE. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON A SCENARIO FOR (A) PRODUC-
ING ANOTHER DRAFT PAPER BY THE CHAIRMAN IN CONSULTATION
WITH HIS "FRIENDS" AND (B) THE WINDING UP OF THE AD HOC COM-
MITTEE'S WORK IN TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF A REPORT TO THE
32ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS TELEGRAM IS TO UPDATE AND ASSESS
THE STATE OF PLAY VIS-A-VIS THE TWO-YEAR OFF-AND-ON EXER-
CISE WHICH SEEKS TO REFORM AND RATIONALIZE THE UN DEVELOP-
MENT SYSTEM.

3. FOR ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF THE PERIOD SINCE GA
RESOLUTION 3362 (VII-S) WAS VOTED, VARIOUS NATIONAL, REG-
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IONAL, AND SECRETARIAT VESTED INTERESTS HAVE WARILY SOUGHT
TO GIVE LIP SERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF "RADICAL REFORM" WHILE
PRESERVING THE STATUS QUO WITH RESPECT TO THEIR OWN PARTICU-
LAR DOMAINS. (THE EASTERN BLOC WISH TO CONFINE CHANGES TO
STRENGTHENING PRINCIPAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES SUCH AS THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE ECOSOC, AND THE CPC. THE FRENCH WISH
TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF ESA AS IS, SINCE IT IS HEADED

BY ONE OF THEIR NATIONALS. CERTAIN OF THE G-77 WISH TO MAKE RESOURCE ADDITIONALITY A PRIOR CONDITION OF REFORM. OTHERS WISH TO MAINTAIN THE IDENTITY OF SPECIAL INTEREST FUNDS SUCH AS UNHSSF, UNFPA, ETC. STILL OTHERS FEEL THAT THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS SHOULD BECOME THE PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL CENTERS OF MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT.)

4. AT THE SAME TIME, CERTAIN OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES ARE RALLYING TO THE CONCEPT OF "CONCENTRIC FUNDING" (REDUCING THE ROLE OF UNDP) AND TO THE PROSPECT OF STABILIZING THEIR REVENUES VIA ASSESSED BUDGETS.

5. EFFORTS TO REFORM ESA HAVE BEEN FURTHER IMPEDED BY INDIVIDUALS OF SENIOR RANK WITHIN THE UN WHO FEEL THEIR POSITIONS THREATENED BY PROSPECTIVE CHANGE. SEVERAL HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PURSUADED THEIR NATIONAL UN DELEGATIONS TO (A) ARGUE FOR THE STATUS QUO, OR (B) LOBBY TO EXEMPT THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIMES FROM CRITICAL EXAMINATION. FROM THE POLITICAL MANEUVERS IMPLICIT IN THIS SETTING, THREE PAPERS OF VARYING COMPREHENSIVENESS EMERGED. THEY ARE (1) PROPOSAL FOR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUBMITTED BY THE US, (2) A POSITION ON RESTRUCTURING BY THE EEC, AND (3) A PROPOSAL BY THE G-77. IT IS AROUND THE RELATIVE MERITS OF THESE THREE DOCUMENTS THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE CENTERED WITH A VIEW TOWARD PRODUCING A CONSOLIDATED TEXT.

6. THE PAPERS AND THE CHAIRMAN'S PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF A CONSOLIDATED TEXT (ALSO REFLECTING ORAL PROPOSALS AND THE COMMENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE) ARE CONTAINED CONFIDENTIAL

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IN SUPPLEMENT 34 (A/31/34). THE MANY BRACKETED ITEMS IN ESSENCE REFLECTED THE POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT OR RESERVATIONS IN EFFECT AT THE OPENING OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. IN MANY INSTANCES OBJECTIONS CAN BE TRACED TO FACTORS OTHER THAN RATIONALITY OR PRINCIPLE. AFTER SEVERAL PRELIMINARY EFFORTS TO REREAD THE TEXT WITH A VIEW TOWARD REDUCING RESERVATIONS, THE COMMITTEE BOGGED DOWN ALMOST HOPELESSLY. AT THAT STAGE, CHAIRMAN DADZIE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO RESIGN IF A WAY COULD NOT BE FOUND TO BREAK THE IMPASSE.

7. AFTER INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN, THE G-77 SPOKESMAN, THE EEC SPOKESMAN, THE SECRETARIAT, OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS (SWEDEN, NORWAY, CANADA, AND AUSTRALIA) AND THE DEPARTMENT, THE U. S. DELEGATION TOOK THE LEADERSHIP IN A SALVAGE OPERATION. THAT INITIATIVE ULTIMATELY WRESTED THE COMMITTEE WORK FROM THE BRINK OF FAILURE. THE U.S. DELEGATION PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A SMALL, VERY INFORMAL GROUP OF "FRIENDS" OF THE CHAIRMAN. WITHOUT FORMALITY OR RECORDS,

THE GROUP WOULD PROVIDE A SETTING IN WHICH IN-DEPTH CANNING OF DIFFICULTIES COULD BE UNDERTAKEN. IN ADDITION, EFFORTS COULD BE MADE TO FIND NON-BINDING LANGUAGE PROPOSALS TO NARROW THE GAPS AND PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A REVISED PAPER BY THE CHAIRMAN.

8. WHILE INITIALLY SKEPTICAL, ALL GROUPS AND KEY DELEGATIONS MET IN A SERIES OF INTENSE MARATHON SESSIONS FOR TWO WEEKS. WHILE SOMEWHAT EXPLOSIVE AT TIMES, THE AIR WAS ULTIMATELY CLEARED, A NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS WERE REMOVED, AND AGREEMENT ON A FORMAT FOR CONCLUDING THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM WAS REACHED INFORMALLY. THAT INFORMAL AGREEMENT WAS FORMALLY RATIFIED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE PRIOR TO ITS ADJOURNMENT ON MAY 20.

9. ON THE BASIS OF AGREEMENT REACHED, THE SCENARIO FOR COMPLETION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS:
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A. ALL DELEGATIONS ARE INVITED TO MAKE FURTHER INPUTS ON THE ROLE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OF THE ECOSOC ITSELF.
B. THE CHAIRMAN WILL CONSULT INFORMALLY WITH DELEGATIONS IN THE COURSE OF ECOSOC LXIII TO PREPARE A REVISED DRAFT.
C. A FINAL MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WILL BE CONVENED SEPTEMBER 6-7 FOR FINAL DISPOSITION OF ITS REPORT.
D. THE RESUMED SESSION OF ECOSOC WILL RECEIVE THE FINAL REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE 32ND GA.

10. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3362 ONLY EMPOWERS THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND OPTIONS TO ECOSOC AND ULTIMATELY TO THE GA. THUS, POSITIONS ON THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF RESTRUCTURING, OR ANY PART THEREOF, ARE REQUIRED DURING THE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER SESSIONS OF ECOSOC AND THE SECOND COMMITTEE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2399938
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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TAGS: EGEN, AORG, XX, UN, ECOSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/34d9568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009